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RUFNPS/AMEMBASSY PARIS 7682
BT
UNCLAS STATE 158325
E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: TGEN
SUBJECT: ASSESSMENT OF NATIONAL MATERIALS INFORMATION
          SYSTEM
          CIRCULAR TELEGRAM
FOR SCIENCE OFFICE OR OFFICER
1.   THE OFFICE OF TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT (OTA) OF THE U.S.
CONGRESS IS SPONSORING AN ASSESSMENT OF A NATIONAL MATE-
RIALS INFORMATION SYSTEM.   THIS STUDY HAS BEEN UNDERTAKEN
IN RESPONSE TO THE HIGH LEVEL OF CONCERN EVIDENCED IN THE
CONGRESS OVER POTENTIAL FUTURE SHORTAGES OF CRITICAL
MATERIALS IN THE U.S. AND THE NEED FOR MORE COMPLETE
INFORMATION ON MATERIAL SUPPLIES AND VARIOUS STAGES OF THE
PRODUCTION AND UTILIZATION CYCLE.   ATTENTION WILL ALSO BE
FOCUSED ON THE INTERRELATIONSHIPS WHICH EXIST AT EACH
STAGE AMONG MATERIALS, ENERGY, ECONOMICS AND THE EVIRON-
MENT, AND FORECASTS OF FUTURE SUPPLIES AND DEMANDS OF
CRITICAL MATERIALS.
2.   THE OTA HAS LET A CONTRACT TO THE IBM FEDERAL SYSTEMS
DIVISION TO SUPPORT THIS EFFORT.   DURING THE COURSE OF
THIS CONTRACT, IT IS INTENDED THAT IBM SURVEY EXISTING
MATERIALS INFORMATION SYSTEMS, BOTH IN THE UNITED STATES
AND ABROAD, AND DEVELOP A CONCEPT FOR A NATIONAL MATERIALS
INFORMATION SYSTEM.   IT IS OTA'S DESIRE TO FIND OUT THE
EXPERIENCES AND PLANS OF OTHER COUNTRIES WITH RESPECT TO
MATERIALS INFORMATION SYSTEMS.
3.   OTA WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY ASSISTANCE IN IDENTIFYING
ORGANIZATIONS OR GOVERNMENT MINISTRIES AND NAMES OF
OFFICIALS IN SUCH ORGANIZATIONS WHO MIGHT HELP THEM WITH
THIS SURVEY.   BASED ON REPLIES OTA WILL FOLLOW UP FOR
DETAILED DISCUSSIONS OF PLANS AND EXPERIENCES.   ADVISE. SISCO
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